Sl. No.	States/UTs	No. of Dalit Bastis Electrified
17.	Uttaranchal	9355
18.	West Bengal	121
	TOTAL STATES	307997
	TOTAL UTs	569
	TOTAL (ALL INDIA)	308566

@ all the Dalit Bastis have been electrified.
(A) as on 31.8.2001.
(B) as on 31.7.2001.

Influx of Hindu Families from Bangladesh

*160. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 300 Hindu families of Bangladesh took shelter in Tripura during the last week of October, 2001 following threats from Muslim fundamentalist organisations; and

(b) the action taken to stop such fresh influx?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per information received from the State Government of Tripura, approximately 400 persons have crossed over to the State from Bangladesh after the General Elections in that country held on 1st October, 2001.

Government of India has noted with serious concern the reports of violence, particularly against the Hindu minority, in Bangladesh following the General Elections in that country on 1 October, 2001. The Government's concern has been conveyed to the new Government of Bangladesh through diplomatic channels. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, who visited Dhaka as his Special Envoy on 26-27 October, 2001, also discussed this matter with the Government of Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh has reiterated its commitment to the safety and security of all

communities and has stated categorically that firm action would be taken to protect the minorities and to punish the prepetrators of violence against them. That Government has also set up a special Committee headed by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to enquire into these attacks.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of Regulatory Authority for coal

1059. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set-up a Regulatory Authority for coal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the authority; and

(c) the present status of the proposal and whether Government propose to invite foreign companies to invest in India for coal mining and so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy (Chari Committee), the Central Government decided in Feb., 1997, among other things, to set up an Independent Body to perform the functions of monitoring and processing the proposals for exploration of coal and lignite in the country and allotment of new coal and lignite blocks to Indian Companies, in public and private sector, on the basis of competitive bidding. The proposal was conceived in the context of the amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow non-captive coal mining by the private sector. Necessary action in the matter can be taken only after the Coal Mines. (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 is enacted by the Parliament.

The private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption in such project are allowed foreign equity upto 100% provided that the coal or lignite produced by them is meant entirely for captive